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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6856

BILL NUMBER: HB 1319

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 13, 2014

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Education matters.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Behning

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill has the following provisions:

Commission on Education: This bill repeals a provision that establishes an expiration date of January 1, 2015, for the Commission on Education (Commission). It provides that the Commission may study and evaluate issues relating to the education of the citizens of Indiana. It changes the date, from December 1 to November 1, on which the Commission's final report is due. It makes conforming amendments.

Commission on Unused and Underutilized School Facilities: This bill establishes the Commission on Unused and Underutilized School Facilities.

High Ability Students: The bill requires the Department of Education (Department) to disaggregate from the ISTEP program test results the percentage of students in each school and each grade who are identified as high ability students by the school corporation who achieved a score in the highest performance level designated for the ISTEP program test. It requires the Department to develop a format for school corporations to publish, as part of the school corporation's annual report, the percentage of students in each school and each grade who are identified as high ability students and also achieved a score in the highest performance level designated for the ISTEP test.

Effective Date: Upon passage; July 1, 2014.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Summary:*

a. Commission on Education: Under this bill, the Commission on Education would become a permanent commission and would not have to be established annually. Under current statute the Commission

is established for two years and is scheduled to expire on January 1, 2015.

The Commission would operate under the policies governing study committees adopted by the Legislative Council. Legislative Council resolutions in the past have established budgets for interim study committees in the amount of \$16,500 per interim for committees with 16 members or more (the current Commission has 25 members). Since 2000, the Commission has met every year but two years.

Changing the due date for the Commission's final report from December 1 to November 1 should have no impact on the Legislative Services Agency, which provides administrative support to the Commission.

b. Commission on Unused and Underutilized School Facilities: This bill establishes the nine-member Commission on Unused and Underutilized School Facilities to meet during 2014. Members are to be appointed by the Governor.

The Department of Administration would provide staff and administrative support to the Commission. Salary per diem and travel expenses would be paid to members who are not state employees and travel expenses would be paid to members who are state employees. As of July 1, 2013, the salary per diem for lay members has been \$50 a day; travel expenses have been \$0.44 per mile, effective May 1, 2011. For state employees, travel expenses have been \$0.44 per mile.

c. High Ability Students: The Department would be required to disaggregate from the ISTEP program test results for a school corporation the percentage of high ability students in each school and each grade in the corporation that also achieved a score in the highest performance level designated for the ISTEP test. The Department also has to design the format to be used by school corporations to report these results. This would not be required if the result would reveal information about an individual student under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act. This requirement would be within DOE's routine administrative functions and should be able to be implemented within existing resources.

Additional Information:

Commission on Unused and Underutilized School Facilities: The Commission would examine the feasibility of establishing a local, regional, or statewide entity or partnership to ensure the optimal use of state and local funds and unused or underutilized school facilities. Before November 1, 2014, the Commission would submit a report of its study to the Governor and Legislative Council.

Current statute requires that not later than August 1 each calendar year, each governing body shall inform the Department of Education if a school building that was previously used for classroom instruction is closed, unused, or unoccupied. A school building can be categorized as either "Unavailable" or "Available". The governing body may change the designation of a building from "Unavailable" to "Available" at any time. As of October 2013, there were eight unused facilities on the Department's list.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *High Ability Students:* School corporations would be required to include in their annual performance report the percentage of high-ability students in each school and each grade who also achieved a score in the highest performance level designated for the ISTEP test. Corporations should be able to accomplish this within existing resources. They currently report ISTEP program test scores

in the annual performance report.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: General Assembly; Legislative Services Agency; Governor's Office; Department of Administration; Department of Education.

Local Agencies Affected: School Corporations

Information Sources: Dept of Education website: www.doe.in.gov/student-services/charter-schools

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